

Session 15-01 a Regular Meeting of the Vessel Haul-Out Task Force was called to order by Chair Howard at 4:00 p.m. on August 4, 2014 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: Carroll, Hawkins, Howard, Lewis, Pate

ABSENT: Hawkins, Pitzman

STAFF: Deputy City Clerk Jacobsen
Administrative Secretary Tussey

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Howard called for approval of the agenda.

LEWIS/PATE SO MOVED

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

RECONSIDERATION

APPROVAL OF SYNOPSIS

A. September 9, 2014 Meeting Synopsis

Chair Howard called for approval of the synopsis.

CARROLL/LEWIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE SYNOPSIS

There was no discussion.

VOTE: NON OBJECTION: UNANIMOUS CONSENT

Motion carried.

VISITORS

STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS

PUBLIC HEARING

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Homer Marine Repair Facility
 - i. Memo to Vessel Haul-Out Task Force from Port Director/Harbormaster Re: City of Homer's Marine Repair Facility Review of BMP's
 - a. Homer Marine Repair Facility BMP's and Appendices
 - b. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Chair Howard asked the group to share their initial comments after reviewing the packet and acknowledged Administrative Secretary Tussey who was available to answer questions.

Mr. Pate said he would like to know now much revenue the haul out is making and what is projected for the future to get an idea of the economics as it sits today. He commented that the memorandum alludes to either hiring a staff person to manage the facility or bring in a third party.

Ms. Tussey said she didn't have the current revenue information but it could be available for the next meeting and that Mr. Pate is correct in that a staff person will be needed for the facility. She did not know if it would earn enough to support the staff member.

Mr. Carroll commented about his experience with being hauled out at the Wrangell facility and the cost to be pulled out and put back in was only \$1000. That will be hard to compete with and the problem is that the City isn't investing in the facility. He commented about standardized fees and that we need someone to promote our facility and let the bigger companies know we are open for business.

Mr. Stockburger agrees that we need to promote it. He recognized we may not make a lot or lose money at first as there are other bigger facilities out there. Homer has its benefits though and we need ensure that it earns enough to pay for the person running it.

Mr. Lewis questioned if there is enough protection in place for the critical habitat area. He agreed that setting up a rate structure is a big endeavor and wonders if someone with more experience should be involved.

Mr. Stockburger noted that the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission has requested Northern Enterprises to prepare a rate structure for moorage and perhaps this could be included in their scope of work.

Chair Howard commented that if the SWPPP permit is approved, that would be the highest authority they would need to comply with.

Mr. Pate added he has seen the Wrangell facility and it's terrific, but they received money to build the facility, as did Ketchikan and possibly Kodiak. He suggested they need to determine if they want to stay small and modest or swim in the deep end. He thinks given the economic climate we can't be

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another Wrangell. Mr. Pate also suggested meeting one on one with the players and let them set a baseline on what they will offer.

Ms. Tussey commented that the Harbormaster and staff agree with starting small and focusing on vessels that are here but unable to haul out locally, and then grow it as funds are available. She explained that they have support for working in the critical habitat with permitting the barge mooring area. Ms. Tussey added that the survey that was sent out last year generated a lot of responses from the users who supported the harbor managing the facility and from that they have big boats asking to haul out, so it is starting to market itself. They are already scheduling for the fall.

During discussion it was clarified that the BMP document addresses what needs to be done in the event of a spill and it is also mentioned in the agreements. The SWPPP addresses what will be done for management of the facility and make reference to the BMP's. A security deposit will be required prior to hauling out. There is a worksheet to calculate the work being done and estimated cost and the security deposit is 50% of the estimated cost. It's out lined in the BMP's under legal notices that the Harbormaster reserves the right to require a 100% deposit or decline use of the facility if deemed necessary, and the conditions that could warrant a higher deposit or denial of use are also included.

There was general discussion of fees and the task force requested some comparisons. It was suggested to look at facilities similar to what Homer has or similar to what the goal is for Homer's facility. Suggested comparisons included Seward, Kodiak, Sand Point, and Valdez. They touched on annual vendor fees and circumstances when a one-time fee might be appropriate, also charging a flat fee per haul out.

The task list for the next meeting includes:

- Revenue generated to date and any projections based on fall scheduling (Harbor staff)
- Comparison of similar facility fees and are their fees covering operating costs or is the facility subsidized (Harbor staff)
- List of new fees (Harbor staff)
- Insurance suggestions (Mr. Pate)

B. Vessel Haul-Out Task Force Meeting Schedule

The group reviewed the schedule and no changes were made.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF

COMMENTS OF THE TASK FORCE

Mr. Pate thanked Ms. Tussey and the harbor staff for the great work on the BMP document.

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Mr. Carroll reiterated the need for a staff person to do the PR work as they are most familiar with the facility.

Mr. Stockburger agrees with the need to do PR for the facility.

Chair Howard thanked everyone for their work.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Task Force the meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled August 18, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved: _____